

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0507

EXDIS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD CALL ON AMBASSADOR
MOYNIHAN

REF: USUN 283

1. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AND A VISIT WITH
GEORGE MEANY IN MIAMI, ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BLANCHARD MET
WITH ME ON FEBRUARY 9. BLANCHARD CONSIDERED HIS TALKS IN
WASHINGTON AND HIS VISIT WITH MAENY EXTREMELY USEFUL. AS
EXPECTED, HE POINTEDLY SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM-
AND WOULD ENHANCE HIS USEFULNESS TO US- IF HE KNEW OUR MINIMUM
CONDITIONS FOR REMAINING IN THE ILO. I OF COURSE AVOIDED
GIVING HIM ANY ANSWER ON THIS POINT EXCEPT TO MAKE CLEAR
THAT WHILE WE REALIZED THE CLOCK COULD NOT BE TURNED BACK
TO THE EARLY POST-WAR WORLD, VERY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON
FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS AND VARIOUS US CONCERNS WAS ESSENTIAL.

2. BLANCHARD EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE
WHILE PLEADING FO US REALISM. HE REITERATED THAT HE
HIMSELF, AS WELL AS MANY LEADERS IN WESTERN AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES WOULD VIEW A FINAL US WITHDRAWAL AS A
CRIPPLING BLOW THAT WOULD NOT KILL ILO BUT WOULD SEVERELY
WEAKEN IT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE WEST. HE URGED THAT
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THE US EMULATE ITS BEHAVIOR AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL

SESSION BY SENDING A STRONG DELEGATION TO THE NEXT ILO MEETING EQUIPPED WITH POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES AND A PLAN FOR PUSHING THEM AS WELL AS CLEAR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT IT DOES NOT LIKE. BLANCHARD MADE THE FOREGOING POINTS IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. HE CONSIDERED THE US LETTER OF INTENT TO BE CLEAR AND AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE FOLLOW-UP WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL DIPLOMACY AS WELL AS TOUGHNESS AND CANDOR.

3. I TOLD BLANCHARD THAT THE US SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE MUST NOW BE CLEAR TO HIM FROM HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THE FACT THAT THE US HAD ACTED SO SPEEDILY IN ASSIGNING AS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ABLE A MAN AS AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN TO CONSULT WITH KEY GOVERNMENTS WAS A CLEAR SIGNAL OF OUR DETERMINATION TO MOVE AHEAD.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, BLANCHARD REGRETTED SOME BAD MISTAKES MADE BY ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES IN A MEETING WITH US OFFICIALS IN DECEMBER IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE HAD SPENT THE WEEKEND PERSONALLY REWRITING PORTIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE IN AN EFFORT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A NUMBER OF US CRITICISMS AND CONCERNS. HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE LAST SESSION OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY HAD BEEN "QUIET" AND "NON-POLITICAL". HE ARGUED THAT THE ILO IS CONTINUING TO DO GOOD TECHNICAL WORK WHICH IS BEING OVERLOOKED. HE SAID THAT MR MEANY HAD RECOGNIZED ILO'S TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THIS FACT ALONE COULD NOT BE USED TO OFFSET THE NEGATIVE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PRACTICES THAT ARE OF SUCH CONCERN TO THE AFL-CIO AND TO THE USG.

5. COMMENT. BLANCHARD SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME. IF IT NOW FITS INTO AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN'S PLANS AND STRATEGY, I BELIEVE THIS COULD BE USEFUL IN ASSURING THAT BLANCHARD DOES NOT GO OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK.

6. ON FEBRUARY 9 AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HARRY CAME
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TO SEE ME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CANBERRA. HARRY IS AN OLD ILO HAND, AND IS WORRIED BY OUR MOVES. I TOLD HIM IN THE STRAIGHTEST TERMS THAT WE WERE ACTING OUT OF CONCERN TO REMAIN IN THE ILO BY PRESERVING ITS FOUNDING PRINCIPLES AND THAT I FELT WHOLLY CONFIDENT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHARED THIS CONCERN. OUR PROBLEM WAS THAT THIS UNITY ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE

RARELY SHOWED FORTH AT MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOR CONFERENCE WHERE AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISTS FREQUENTLY
FELT LET DOWN. HE KNOWS THE PLACE WELL ENOUGH TO TAKE
MY POINT, AND LEFT SAYING HE WOULD SEND A REASSURING
MESSAGE OFF TO HIS GOVERNMENT.
MOYNIHAN

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